

HONORING VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important legacy of Virginia Graeme Baker, a 7-year-old child who was the unfortunate victim of entrapment by a residential spa drain.

On June 15, 2002, Graeme attended a pool party with her entire family, her mother Nancy and her four sisters. Everyone was having a great time swimming, when all of the sudden, one of Nancy's daughters came running to tell her that Graeme was in the spa. Nancy ran to the edge of the spa, and all she saw was dark and bubbling water.

Her daughter, frantically crying and pointing into the tub, insisted that Graeme was there. Nancy jumped into the spa and saw Graeme with her eyes pinched closed, her hair and limbs moving with the current of water from all the jets on the side. Graeme was entrapped by the powerful suction of the drain spa and could not free herself.

Nancy pulled and pulled with all her strength to help her daughter. It eventually took the strength of two adults to free Graeme from the spa. It was sadly too late; Graeme passed away in the hospital later that afternoon.

I can only imagine the immeasurable grief that her mother and Graeme's entire family went through. Today, Mr. Speaker, is the fifth anniversary of Graeme's death, and I want to take this moment to acknowledge the enormous loss suffered by the Baker family.

Following Graeme's death, Nancy and her father-in-law, former Secretary of State James Baker, became and still are tireless advocates for children and children's safety. When I met Nancy, I was immediately taken by her tragic story of the loss of her daughter.

I was most affected by Nancy's incredible desire to ensure that what happened to Graeme did not happen to any other child. Nancy has channeled all of her energies into raising the issue of pool and spa drain entrapment, a hidden hazard responsible for hundreds of injuries and numerous deaths, to a national audience. Her passion is an inspiration to me, and I am proud to sponsor the Pool and Spa Safety Act, H.R. 1721, in memory of Graeme Baker.

I want to acknowledge and thank my colleague Congressman FRANK WOLF of Virginia, the lead Republican sponsor of this bill, Chairman BOBBY RUSH and Chairman JOHN DINGELL for their support of this badly needed legislation.

The progress made on the Pool and Spa Safety Act would not be possible without the hard work of the entire Baker family. I hope my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, join me in honoring Virginia Graeme Baker, a remarkable little girl, and her mother Nancy whose dedication and tenacity is truly making the world a safer place for all of our children.

PEAK OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I will submit for the RECORD two short articles, one from Business Week and the other from the Washington Post, at the end of my remarks.

It's been roughly 2 years now since I have been coming to the well to talk about energy and, more specifically, about peak oil. When I first came here to do that, we had quite a discussion in our office what we would call it because it was a phenomenon that very few had any interest in or any knowledge of.

And I had heard two descriptive terms. One was peak oil, which is the one we finally decided to use, and the other was the great rollover. When we talk about it this evening, you will understand what the great rollover is. It's the rollover from adequate production. You come to the peak and then you roll over the peak and start down the other side. We wisely, I think, chose to call it peak oil because that's apparently what everybody else is calling it.

And I wanted to start this evening with two articles that a couple of years ago when I started coming here I would never have dreamed that I would be able to come to this well and one day find two articles like this in two of our major publications. One of them is from the Washington Post and the other is from Business Week, and I'd like to begin this evening by reading from these articles. It's the kind of thing that I have been saying for 2 years, and it's very satisfying to be able to read it now from somebody else's pen.

This is the one from the Washington Post called, "A Wind-Powered Town, an Energy Bill and a Lot of Hot Air." You might suspect by that title that the author is Dana Milbank.

"There's a certain irony in Washington's failure to devise a modern energy policy. This is, after all," he says, "the one place on earth that is powered almost entirely by wind."

"Lawmakers are growing further apart on energy legislation, as Democrats demand alternative fuels and Republicans insist on more drilling. But for both sides, the ability to talk about energy is both plentiful and renewable."

"While the Senate held its fourth day of debate on an energy bill, three congressional committees held hearings on the subject yesterday, and the House and Senate Renewable Energy Caucuses held an all-day 'expo and forum' in the Cannon Caucus Room. Democratic senators held two news conferences on the subject, Republican senators held a third, and bipartisan groups of lawmakers contributed a fourth and fifth." And this is all in one day.

"Not to be left out, the National Association for Business Economics, the

U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission," before whom I testified this afternoon, "the Electric Power Supply Association, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and a coalition of environmentalists all hosted energy events of their own."

"Talk about a large carbon footprint. The amount of CO₂ emitted from the mouths of all these lawmakers, lobbyists and activists was enough to cause part of Greenland to melt into the sea."

"This bill's going to have a tough time," said Senator Larry Craig . . . That's a safe guess, given that the Senate plans for about eight days of debate on the bill, and Republicans such as Craig are hinting at a filibuster that could derail the whole thing."

"The Senate energy legislation is fairly modest. It stays away from radical policies, such as a carbon tax or a cap on carbon emissions. Its toughest provision, a plan to increase fuel-efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, is under siege by a bipartisan group of lawmakers from car-manufacturing States."

"The Senate energy bill started out fairly weak, and we don't see the debate getting any better," complained Eric Pica, who represented Friends of the Earth at a protest by environmentalists on the Senate grounds yesterday.

"Minutes later, Republican lawmakers assembled in the Senate television gallery to voice similarly bitter objections to the bill, for completely opposite reasons. 'It doesn't do anything to lower the price of gasoline,' argued Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, the Senate Republican leader."

"Did that message get out? Not without some difficulty. The Republican event was squeezed in between a Senate hearing on 'the impact of rising gas prices,' and a pair of House committee sessions on biofuels and 'climate change mitigation.' Within minutes of the GOP's departure from the television studio, Democrats walked in with a rebuttal."

"We do not believe in the President's theory, the Republican's theory: Drill, drill, drill, more of the same," Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, taunted. "It reminds me of Iraq."

Over in the Cannon Caucus Room, where the Renewable Energy Caucus was caucusing among displays of pea pellets, switch grass and filament-free lightbulbs, exhibitors were on hand to talk about landfill gas and to hand out lollipops and bumper stickers saying I love wind energy.

"It was a festive gathering, but Representative ROSCOE BARTLETT, Republican from Maryland, a champion of renewable energy, delivered a somber message about progress in the capital. 'We've been crawling at a snail's pace,' he said. 'We've been doing little more than nibbling at the edges.'"

Now, for the article from Business Week, and we will kind of be reading this together because I have seen it for the first time just a couple of moments before I came to the well.